

1                   **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE**  
2                   **TREATMENT OF THE UIGHUR ETHNIC COMMUNITY AND**  
3                   **HONG KONG BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT**

4                   2023 GENERAL SESSION

5                   STATE OF UTAH

6                   **Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci**

7                   Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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9                   **LONG TITLE**

10                  **General Description:**

11                  This concurrent resolution condemns the People's Republic of China's treatment of the  
12                  Uighur community and Hong Kong; encourages Utah schools and higher learning  
13                  institutions to teach students about these current events, particularly those engaged in  
14                  learning the Chinese language and culture, to understand the atrocities and challenges  
15                  faced by the people of China as a result of the socialist economy controlled by the  
16                  communist People's Republic of China government; and warns Utah businesses to be  
17                  aware of supply chain materials that may have been made by forced labor.

18                  **Highlighted Provisions:**

19                  This resolution:

- 20                  ▶ condemns the People's Republic of China's treatment of the Uighur community and  
21                  Hong Kong;
- 22                  ▶ calls upon the People's Republic of China to uphold its commitments to Hong  
23                  Kong;
- 24                  ▶ encourages Utah schools and higher learning institutions to teach students about  
25                  these current events; and
- 26                  ▶ warns Utah businesses to be aware of supply chain materials that may have been  
27                  made by forced labor.



28 **Special Clauses:**

29           None



31 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

32           WHEREAS, the Government of the People's Republic of China has a long history of  
33 repressing Turkic Muslims, particularly Uighurs, in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous  
34 Region, including mass surveillance and internment of over 1,000,000 Uighurs and other  
35 predominantly Turkic Muslim ethnic minorities;

36           WHEREAS, those detained in such facilities have described forced political  
37 indoctrination, torture, beatings, forced labor, and food deprivation, as well as denial of  
38 religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the  
39 only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty;

40           WHEREAS, poor conditions and lack of medical treatment at such facilities appear to  
41 have contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm;

42           WHEREAS, forced labor exists within the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region's  
43 system of mass internment camps, and throughout the region, and is confirmed by the  
44 testimony of former camp detainees, satellite imagery, official media reports, publicly available  
45 documents, official statements, and official leaked documents from the Government of the  
46 People's Republic of China as part of a targeted campaign of repression of Muslim ethnic  
47 minorities;

48           WHEREAS, audits and efforts to vet products and supply chains in the Xinjiang Uighur  
49 Autonomous Region are unreliable due to the extent forced labor has been integrated into the  
50 regional economy, the mixing of involuntary labor with voluntary labor, the inability of  
51 witnesses to speak freely about working conditions given government surveillance and  
52 coercion, and the incentive of government officials to conceal government-sponsored forced  
53 labor;

54           WHEREAS, the Government of the People's Republic of China's actions against Turkic  
55 Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, whose population was approximately 13  
56 million at the time of the last Chinese census in 2020, are in contravention of international  
57 human rights laws; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial  
58 Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading

59 Treatment or Punishment, both of which China has signed and ratified; the International  
60 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China has signed; and the Universal Declaration  
61 of Human Rights;

62 WHEREAS, in late May 2020 the National People's Congress of China announced its  
63 intention to unilaterally and arbitrarily impose national security legislation on Hong Kong;

64 WHEREAS, this announcement was merely China's latest salvo in a series of actions  
65 that have increasingly denied autonomy and freedoms that China promised to the people of  
66 Hong Kong under the 1984 Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of  
67 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on  
68 the Question of Hong Kong (Joint Declaration);

69 WHEREAS, under the national security legislation, the people of Hong Kong may face  
70 life in prison for what China considers to be acts of secession or subversion of state power,  
71 which may include acts like the widespread anti-government protests in 2019;

72 WHEREAS, under the national security legislation the right to trial by jury may be  
73 suspended and proceedings may be conducted in secret;

74 WHEREAS, China has given itself broad power to initiate and control the prosecution  
75 of the people of Hong Kong through the new Office for Safeguarding National Security;

76 WHEREAS, the national security legislation allows foreigners to be expelled if China  
77 merely suspects them of violating the law, potentially making it harder for journalists, human  
78 rights organizations, and other outside groups to hold the People's Republic of China  
79 accountable for its treatment of the people of Hong Kong;

80 WHEREAS, in December 2021 the Uighur Forced Labor Prevention Act (the "UFLPA"  
81 or "Act") was signed into law; and

82 WHEREAS, a key feature of the Act is the creation of a rebuttable presumption that all  
83 goods manufactured even partially in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region are the product  
84 of forced labor and therefore not entitled to entry at ports of the United States:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
86 Governor concurring therein, condemns the mass, arbitrary detention and treatment of Uighurs  
87 in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor condemn the  
89 violations by the Government of the People's Republic of China of the fundamental rights of

90 the people of Hong Kong, as provided by the International Covenant on Civil and Political  
91 Rights, and any encroachment upon the autonomy guaranteed to Hong Kong by the Basic Law,  
92 enacted under the Constitution of China, and the Joint Declaration.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor call upon the  
94 Government of the People's Republic of China to uphold its commitments to Hong Kong,  
95 including allowing the people of Hong Kong to govern Hong Kong with a high degree of  
96 autonomy and without undue interference.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor call upon the  
98 Government of the People's Republic of China to support the robust exercise by residents of  
99 Hong Kong of the rights to free speech, the press, and other fundamental freedoms, as provided  
100 by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political  
101 Rights.

102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor call upon the  
103 Government of the People's Republic of China to support freedom from arbitrary or unlawful  
104 arrest, detention, or imprisonment for all Hong Kong residents, as provided by the Basic Law,  
105 the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage Utah  
107 schools and higher learning institutions to teach Utah students about these current events,  
108 particularly those engaged in learning the Chinese language and culture, to understand the  
109 atrocities and challenges faced by the people of China as a result of the Maoist socialist  
110 economy controlled by the communist People's Republic of China.

111 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor warn Utah  
112 businesses to be aware of supply chain materials that may have been made by forced labor.

113 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage  
114 businesses to find alternative supply chain providers and producers that do not use forced labor.